Licence for Dolomite Mining

1471. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) what is the present policy of licensing for dolomite mining;

(b) whether it is a fact that there are large resources of dolomite all over the country;

(c) the reasons for centralising licensing of dolomite mining; and

(d) the steps being taken to reduce bureaucratic centralisation in licensing of cheap and easily available minerals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) The mining leases for Dolomite are given under provisions of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 and rules framed thereunder.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Prospecting licences/mining leases for Dolomite are given by the respective State Governments with prior approval of the Central Government as envisaged under the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Develpment) Alt, 1957.

Group Insurance to Mine Workers

1472. SHRI TINDIVANAM G. VENKATRAMAN: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Group Insurance to Mine Workers is insisted upon by special enactment;

(b) if so, when does Government propose to implement, if not the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is a fact that the life span of mine worker is curtailed due to inhalation of various types of gases under the earth; and

(d) whether the medical allowance of mine worker is commensurate with risk involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Import of Cooking Coal

1473. SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to import coking coal to meet the requirement of the country during the year 1993; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the names of the countries from which the coking coal will be imported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) Steel Plans under the Steel Authority of India Limited and the Visakhapatnam Steel Plant under the Rashtriya Ispat Nigam Limited propose to import during 1993-94 coking coal to the extent of upto 4.5 million tonnes and 1.88 million tonnes respectively; to meet the qualitative and quantitative gaps respectively; to meet between demand and supply of cooking coal from indigenous sources. Actual position in this regard will be known only after the finalisation of tenders etc.

Goa's Iron ore Industry

1474. SHRI P. UPENDRA:
SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state

(a) whether Goa's Iron Ore Industry is under great strain and ore exports had considerably dropped last year:

(b) what are the reasons for the shortfall in export demand and the present State of affairs the ore industry is facing; and